



Water Safety Policy and Procedures

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National Law and Regulations	National Law Sections 165, 167, 174 National Regulations 12, 101, 102, 103, 136, 168
National Quality Standard	Quality Areas 2 and 7
EYLF	Learning Outcome 1: Children feel safe, secure, and supported

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Policy Statement

Heritage Early Childhood Centre (Heritage) recognises it has a duty of care and legal responsibility to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of enrolled children, and to protect them as far as practicable from hazards likely to cause harm or injury. This policy has been developed to ensure that management, educators, families, students and volunteers at Heritage are aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to water safety and ensure that all practicable precautions are employed to safeguard children during water experiences.

According to Kidsafe:

- Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia and is preventable.
- Most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, however a child can drown silently in as little as a 5cm of water in less than 2 minutes.
- The relative risk of drowning for children 0–4 years of age is six times that of children aged 5–14 years of age.
- Non-fatal drowning incidents may cause brain damage and disability.

Heritage understands that water activities at the service and on excursions are an important part of young children’s healthy growth, learning, wellbeing and development as they are an open-ended learning and sensory experience for children. As children feel, grasp, measure, pour and experiment with water, they not only develop their fine motor skills, but also their curiosity and imagination, literacy and numeracy skills, and participate in scientific discovery and environmental awareness. However, Heritage recognises that any activity where children play with or near water poses a high safety risk. Heritage also recognises that nappy buckets, water containers, sinks, toilets, pet water bowls and poor drainage which allows water to collect, can be hazardous for young children.

This policy ensures the safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority at Heritage. Educators are required to employ constant vigilant supervision when children are near any body of water and to be in close proximity to the children (at least a safe rescue distance) at all times. No child may be left unattended when near water and no educators may leave their supervision positions unless replaced by another educator/ competent adult, including on excursions.¹

In addition, Heritage prioritises regular assessment of the water safety practices in order to maintain and improve educator’s awareness of their duty of care and to continuously improve supervision procedures.

Heritage recognises that water safety also relates to the availability of safe drinking water for children, and the avoidance of scalding from hot water from taps or hot drinks.²

Legislative Background

The Education and Care National Law and Regulations	
National Law Section 165	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approved provider and nominated supervisor must ensure that all children being educated and cared for by the service are adequately supervised at all times that the children are in the care of that service
National Law Section 167	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approved provider and nominated supervisor must ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children being educated at the service from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury.
National Law Section 174	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious incidents must be notified to the Regulatory Authority within the required timeframe.

¹ Refer to: Supervision Policy

² Refer to: Nutrition and Oral Hygiene Policy; Dangerous Products Policy; Work Health and Safety Policy



Regulation 168(2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and procedures are required in relation to health and safety, including matters relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (2)(a)(iii) water safety and safety during any water-based activities • (2)(h) providing a child safe environment
Regulation 103	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that the education and care service premises and all equipment and furniture used in providing the education and care service are safe, clean and in good repair.
Regulation 115	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approved provider must ensure that the premises (including toilets and nappy change facilities) are designed and maintained in a way that facilitates supervision of children at all times that they are being educated and cared for by the service, having regard to the need to maintain the rights and dignity of the children.
Regulation 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A risk assessment for an excursion must-- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) identify and assess risks that the excursion may pose to the safety, health or wellbeing of any child being taken on the excursion; and (b) specify how the identified risks will be managed and minimised. • (2) Without limiting subregulation (1), a risk assessment must consider-- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the proposed route and destination for the excursion; and (b) any water hazards; (c) any risks associated with water-based activities; (f) given the risks posed by the excursion, the number of educators or other responsible adults that is appropriate to provide supervision and whether any adults with specialised skills are required; life-saving skills; (g) the proposed activities; and (h) the proposed duration of the excursion; and (i) the items that should be taken on the excursion. Example: A mobile phone and list of emergency contact numbers for children on the excursion.³
Regulation 102	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approved provider and nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that a child being educated and cared for by the service is not taken outside the education and care service premises on an excursion unless written authorisation has been provided under subregulation (4). • (4) The authorisation must be given by a parent or other person named in the child's enrolment record as having authority to authorise the taking of the child outside the education and care service premises by an educator.⁴
Regulation 136	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approved provider of a centre-based service must ensure that each of the following persons are in attendance at any place where children are being educated and cared for by the service, and immediately available in an emergency, at all times that children are being educated and cared for by the service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ at least one staff member or one nominated supervisor of the service who holds a current approved first aid qualification. ○ at least one staff member or one nominated supervisor of the service who has undertaken current approved anaphylaxis management training; ○ at least one staff member or one nominated supervisor of the service who has undertaken current approved emergency asthma management training.
Regulations 12 & 176(2)(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12: Meaning of serious incident.⁵ • 176(2)(a): The service must notify the regulatory authority within 24 hours of becoming aware of a serious incident.

³ Refer to: Excursions and Incursions Policy

⁴ Refer to: Excursions and Incursions Policy; Supervision Policy

⁵ Refer to: Definitions; Emergency and Evacuation Policy



National Quality Standard	
QA 2 Children's Health and Safety	<p>Standard 2.2: Safety: Each child is protected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Element 2.2.1: Supervision: At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
QA 7 Governance & Leadership	<p>Standard 7.1: Governance supports the operation of a quality service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Element 7.1.3: Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, understood, and support effective decision making and operation of the service.
Early Years Learning Framework	
Learning Outcome 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children feel safe, secure, and supported.

Definitions

The following definitions are used in this policy:

- Adequate supervision:** Adequate supervision entails all children (individuals and groups) in all areas of the service, being in sight and/or hearing of an educator at all times including during toileting, sleep, rest and transition routines and there is consistent and present engagement with children. Adequate supervision contributes to protecting children from hazards that may emerge in play. Services are required to comply with the legislative requirements for educator-to-child ratios at all times and be responsive to the variables affecting supervision levels including:

 - Number, age and abilities of children
 - Number and positioning of staff
 - Current activity of each child
 - Areas in which the children are engaged in an activity (visibility and accessibility)
 - Developmental profile of each child and of the group of children
 - Experience, knowledge and skill of each staff
 - Need for staff to move between areas (effective communication strategies).
- Constant supervision:** Educators employ constant visual contact with the children and remain in close proximity all times during high-risk experiences such as near water.
- Duty of care:** A common law concept that refers to the responsibilities of organisations to provide people with an adequate level of protection against harm and all reasonable foreseeable risk of injury.
- Hazard:** A source or situation with a potential for harm in terms of human injury or ill health, damage to property, damage to the environment or a combination of these.
- Incident, Injury, Trauma, and Illness Records:** Contain details of any incident, injury, trauma or illness that occurs while the child is being educated and cared for by the service. Any incident, injury, trauma or illness must be recorded as soon as is practicable but not later than 24 hours after the occurrence.
- Notifiable Incident:** An incident involving workplace health and safety that is required by law to be reported to WorkSafe ACT. Notification is required for incidents that result in death or serious injury/illness, or dangerous occurrences.
- Serious Incident:** An incident resulting in the death of a child, or an injury, trauma or illness for which the attention of a registered medical practitioner, emergency services or hospital is sought or should have been sought. This also includes an incident in which a child appears to be missing, cannot be accounted for, is removed from the service in contravention of the regulations or is mistakenly locked in/out of the service premises (Regulation 12). A serious incident should be documented as soon as possible and within 24 hours of the incident. The Regulatory Authority must be notified within 24 hours of a serious incident occurring at the service (Regulation 176(2)(a)).
- Water Hazard:** In relation to this policy, a water hazard is a body of water that can lead to drowning or non-fatal drowning incidences. Drowning hazards include swimming pools, rivers, creeks, dams and ponds. Smaller bodies of water can also present drowning hazards

for young children including water play equipment, paddling pools, nappy buckets, water containers, pet water bowls and poor drainage, which allows water to collect.

Policy Aims

This policy aims to provide educators with guidance on how to provide quality supervision for children in order to:

- Meet the duty of care of the service and legislative requirements to provide a safe and secure environment for all enrolled children.
- Provide enrolled children with opportunities to explore the natural environment through water play, while minimising the risk of injury, incidents, drowning and non-fatal drowning incidents.
- Ensure the educational program incorporates water safety awareness.
- Ensure information about water safety is provided to the Heritage community.

Rationale

Heritage has a duty of care to provide each individual on the premises with a safe and healthy physical and psychological environment (*ACT Work Safety ACT 2011*). In addition, the Supervision and Water Safety Policy has been developed to comply with the:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (ACT)
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* (ACT)
- National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education & Care & School Age Care, 2011.⁶
- The Heritage Philosophy and Work, Health and Safety Policy

Scope

It is understood that there is a shared legal responsibility and accountability between, and a commitment by, the Heritage Committee, Director, educators, other staff, students on placement, family volunteers, parents/guardians and all others attending the programs and activities of Heritage, including during offsite excursions, to implement this policy as a matter of high priority given the potential risks to health and safety of children from poor supervision.

Summary of Key Responsibilities

Role	Responsible for:
Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring this policy and related procedures is easily accessible to the Heritage community, regularly reviewed and updated in consultation with educators and families to reflect current legislation and best practice recommendations. • Ensuring this policy clearly sets out the roles and responsibilities of the service management, educators and Heritage community. • Ensuring the service Director adheres to the strategies and procedures set out in this policy and the service meets or exceeds all requirements under the <i>Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011</i>. • Working with the Director to notify the ACT Regulatory Authority (CECA) within 24 hours of a Serious Incident.⁷ Serious incidents include if a child goes missing on an excursion near a body of water or a child drowning. • Working with the Director to report Notifiable Incidents⁸ to WorkSafe ACT.
Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring children are protected, as far as practicable, from hazards that may cause harm or injury, at all times.

⁶ Refer to: Appendix 1: Relevant National Law, Regulations and Quality Standards

⁷ Refer to: Definitions

⁸ Refer to: Definitions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Management Committee ensure this policy is up to date, regularly updated in consultation with stakeholders and readily available to the Heritage community. • Ensuring water safety practices are clear and easy to read. • Providing guidance and advice to Heritage educators, to ensure adherence to the policy at all times. • Ensuring information on water safety is incorporated into the educational program. • Providing families with information regarding water safety. • Ensuring all permanent educators have up to date First Aid certificates including CPR, emergency asthma and anaphylaxis, and water safety. This is seen as a duty of care by the service and exceeds the requirements under Regulation 136. • Ensuring safety checks of the indoor and outdoor learning environment occur at the beginning and end of each day including checking for puddles or filled containers that could pose a potential risk to small children after heavy rain. • Identifying water play and excursions/regular outings near bodies of water as high-risk activities through a risk management process and implementing strategies to ensure children’s safety including increasing adult-to-child ratios above regulatory requirements as required.⁹ • Obtaining parental permission for an excursion or regular outing to a location where a water hazard has been identified. • Ensuring clean drinking water is available at all times.¹⁰ • Ensuring hot water is tempered to below 43.5°C and checked monthly.¹¹ • Ensuring hot drinks are prepared and consumed in areas inaccessible to children such as the staff room, kitchen areas or the main office, and great care taken when walking from the staff room to the main office carrying hot drinks, preferably when children are outside.¹² • Ensuring family volunteers and visitors any other persons participating in the program are informed of the of the hot drink procedures. • Informing the Management Committee immediately if any Serious or Notifiable Incidents occur at the service. • Notifying the ACT Regulatory Authority within 24 hours of: a serious incident, including when a child appears to be missing, or a complaint alleging that the health, safety or wellbeing of a child has been compromised or that the law has been breached. • Notifying parents/guardians of a serious incident involving their child as soon as possible, but not more than 24 hours after the occurrence. • Reporting notifiable incidents to WorkSafe ACT appropriately.¹³ • Evaluating water safety practises regularly in consultation with other stakeholders.
<p>Educators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being in close proximity to all children (at least a safe rescue distance) at all times they are near a body of water and employing constant vigilant supervision. • Ensuring no child is left unattended at any time with any body of water.

⁹ Refer to: Work Health and Safety Policy; Excursions and Incursions Policy

¹⁰ Refer to: Nutrition and Oral Hygiene Policy

¹¹ Refer to: Dangerous Products Policy

¹² Refer to: Dangerous Products Policy

¹³ Refer to: Work Health and Safety Policy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring if educators need to move away from the water activity, they are immediately replaced by another educator, or the activity will be discontinued. • Adhering to procedures to ensure that all children are accounted for including by referring to attendance records at various times throughout the day, both before and after outdoor activities and on excursions.¹⁴ • Ensuring gates and other barriers restricting access to water hazards are closed at all times and that fences are kept clear at all times. • Embedding water safety messages into the children’s education program. • Conducting daily safety checks of the environment to remove any water hazards. • Ensuring water play is only planned when risk management strategies are in place including ensuring paddling pools, water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level, emptied immediately after use. • Ensuring pet water containers are inaccessible to children unless under supervision.¹⁵ • Ensuring water troughs or containers are only filled by an educator. • Ensuring that containers of water (including nappy buckets and cleaning buckets) are sealed with child-proof lids or locked in the laundry. • Emptying buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. • Ensuring no cleaning buckets are left in areas accessible to children. • Ensuring hot drinks are prepared and consumed in areas inaccessible to children such as the staff room, kitchen areas or the main office, and great care is taken when walking from the staff room to the main office carrying hot drinks, preferably when children are outside.¹⁶ • Ensuring family volunteers and visitors and any other persons participating in the program are informed of the of the hot drink procedures. • Ensuring clean drinking water is available to all children at all times. • Ensuring children are discouraged from drinking grey water. • Notifying the Director in the event of a serious incident occurring at the service or of a complaint being made alleging the health, safety or wellbeing of a child has been compromised.
<p>Families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becoming familiar with and following this policy and related procedures. • Reading the Family Handbook. • Following instructions from educators regarding water safety. • Reinforcing safety messages, including water safety practises, with their children at home.
<p>Students and Regular Volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following this policy and related procedures. • Reading the Relief Educator Handbook. • Following instructions from senior educators regarding supervision strategies and water safety. • Encouraging and reinforcing water safety practises at all times.

¹⁴ Refer to: Delivery and Collection of Children Policy; Excursions and Incursions Policy

¹⁵ Refer to: Pets and Animals Policy

¹⁶ Refer to: Dangerous Products Policy



Strategies and Practices

Heritage is guided by the Keep Watch education program¹⁷ of Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, that is aimed at preventing the drowning deaths of children under 5 years of age in all aquatic locations. The program has four key actions to prevent young children from drowning which Heritage has adapted to suit the early learning environment.

1. Eliminate the hazard where appropriate. This may include environmental measures to restrict access to water hazards by using child-proof barriers and fences.
2. Supervise children constantly around bodies of water.
3. Educate and provide of water awareness training for children.
4. Understand that resuscitation saves lives and ensure educators have current first aid certificates.

Risk Management at the Service and on Excursions

Heritage management will ensure:

- A thorough risk management process is in place to identify water hazards at the service and on excursions/regular outings as high-risk activities, and to implement strategies to ensure children's safety including increasing adult-to-child ratios above regulatory requirements as required.¹⁸
- Procedures will be developed for each excursion to ensure that all children are accounted for including by referring to attendance records at various times throughout the excursion.
- Educators and adult family volunteers on the excursion understand their duty of care to stay in close proximity to the children (a safe rescue distance) at all times near any body of water.
- Educators and adults provide constant vigilant supervision near bodies of water and do not leave their position unless replaced by another competent adult.
- An educator qualified in First Aid, including water rescue, is in attendance on excursions.

First Aid Qualifications

- Heritage management will ensure that all permanent educators hold current approved first aid qualifications that include CPR, water safety/rescue, and approved anaphylaxis management training and approved emergency asthma training. This exceeds the requirement under Regulation 136.¹⁹

Safety Checks

Educators will ensure:

- Doors and gates will be closed at all times to prevent children from leaving the service unaccompanied or from accessing unsupervised/unsafe areas of the service, including water hazards.
- Daily safety checks are undertaken of the premises, including checking for areas of poor drainage allowing water to accumulate.
- They are aware of the risks in the environment and carry out regular safety checks to identify and remove water hazards.²⁰
- Water play equipment is, at all times, age appropriate.
- Water play equipment is emptied and stored appropriately after each use to prevent access by children and water collection from natural causes such as rain.
- Appropriate manual handling techniques are followed when moving or securing vessels containing water which may be very heavy.
- Pet water containers are refilled regularly, inaccessible to children unless under supervision by an educator and kept in a separate area from the children's regular play area.²¹
- Children who require washing will be bathed using a washcloth and warm water rather than immersed in a bath.

¹⁷ Refer to: References and Further Reading

¹⁸ Refer to: Work Health and Safety Policy; Excursions and Incursions Policy

¹⁹ Refer to: First Aid for Injury, Illness and Trauma Policy; Appendix 1: Relevant Regulations

²⁰ Refer to: Work Health and Safety Policy

²¹ Refer to: Pets and Animals Policy



- The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature of 43.5°C or below and checked monthly to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands.²²
- Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children and when walking through the service with a hot drink, must do so safely such as when the children are outside.²³
- Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with “do not drink” signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.

Constant Vigilant Supervision

Educators will ensure:

- Water play, including paddling pools, is only planned if educators are able to provide constant vigilant supervision.
- When introducing water play, educators will position themselves in close proximity to the children within a safe rescue distance and to allow constant vigilant supervision.²⁴
- If educators need to move away from the water activity, they will be replaced by another educator or the activity will be discontinued.
- No child is left unsupervised at any stage around any body of water, including water troughs, toilets and nappy buckets.
- Bathrooms must be supervised when children are using them and educators will follow the procedures for toileting, including adhering to the numbers allowed in bathrooms at one time, as set out in the Hygiene and Infection Control (incl. Toileting) Policy.

Hygiene Procedures

- Children are encouraged to thoroughly wash and dry their hands after each water play activity to reduce the risk of cross infection.²⁵
- Water play equipment is allowed to dry thoroughly at the end of each water play activity to prevent the build-up of potentially harmful bacteria and mould.
- Drinking water containers are emptied and cleaned daily.

Educational Program

Educators will ensure:

- Educators will discuss water safety with the children as part of the educational program including that water in play activities is for play and not for consumption.
- Families are asked to provide a spare set of clothing for their child when water activities are planned in case their child becomes uncomfortably wet during a session of water play.
- Water waste is minimised and water conservation messages will be included in the educational program for the children.²⁶

Communication and Training

Educators

- Heritage management will discuss water safety strategies during the induction period, at staff meetings and provide information in the Educator and Relief Educator Handbooks.
- Heritage management will maintain and strengthen the water safety skills and knowledge of educators and relevant training programs will be offered during the year to educators.

Families

- Families will be provided with water safety information such as via the notice board, newsletter and service handbooks.

²² Refer to: Dangerous Products Policy

²³ Refer to: Dangerous Products Policy

²⁴ Refer to: Definitions

²⁵ Refer to: Work, Health and Safety Policy; Hygiene and Infection Control Policy; Sustainable Practices Policy; Clothing and Footwear Policy

²⁶ Refer to: Sustainability Policy

- Water safety factsheets may given to families as appropriate (See References and Attachment 1).

Children

- Heritage educators will communicate the importance of water safety to children by setting an example. Children learn through example, so it is important that educators model safe practices around bodies of water as a way to teach the children.
- Water safety messages will be incorporated in the educational program.

Policy Evaluation and Review

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Director in consultation with the Management Committee will:

- Regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness.
- Monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy.
- Keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice.
- Revise the policy and procedures as part of the service’s policy review cycle or as required through the identification of practice gaps or following an incident.
- Provide opportunities and encouragement to families and staff, as essential stakeholders, to be involved in the policy review process.
- Notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service; a family’s ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected (r172).

Related Policies

Name	Location
Creating Inclusion and Equity Policy	Policies and Procedures available in Members Section on Website.
Curriculum and Program Planning Policy	
Dangerous Products Policy	
Emergency and Evacuation Policy	Heritage Handbook and Educator Handbooks
Excursions and Incursions Policy	
First Aid for Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy	Policy and Procedures Manuals in Main Office, Programming Room and Entrance Foyer.
Hygiene and Infection Control (incl. Toileting) Policy	
Pets and Animals Policy	
Providing a Child Safe Environment	
Work, Health and Safety Policy	

References and Further Reading

Legislative References

Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). (2018). *Guide to the National Quality Framework.*

https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-03/Guide-to-the-NQF_0.pdf

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2011 (ACT).

<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2011-42/current/pdf/2011-42.pdf>

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (ACT).

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653>

The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (2009).

https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-02/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf

Work Health and Safety Act 2011. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018C00293>

Other References

ACECEQA. (2020). *Adequate supervision factsheet.*

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-08/QA2-ActiveSupervisionEnsuringSafetyAndPromotingLearning.pdf>

Community Early Learning Australia. (2019). *Water Safety Policy Sample*

Queensland Government. (2020). *Water Safety Policy Guidelines.*

<https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/legislationAndGuidelines/Documents/water-safety-policy-guidelines.PDF>

Royal Lifesaving NSW. (2021). *Preschool Water Safety Initiative.*

<https://royalnsw.com.au/EDUCATION/Preschool-Water-Safety-Initiative/Preschool-Water-Safety-Initiative>

University of Melbourne Early Learning Centre. (2014). *Water Safety Policy.*

Useful Websites

Keep Watch Awareness Campaign. <https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/about/campaigns-and-programs/keep-watch>

Kids Alive Do the Five. <https://kidsalive.com.au/>

Kidsafe ACT: <http://www.kidsafeact.com.au/>

Royal Life Saving Society, Australia: www.royallifesaving.com.au

The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne Safety Centre: www.rch.org.au/safetycentre

WorkSafe ACT: www.worksafe.act.gov.au

Water Safety Factsheets

Royal Life Saving Australia. *How to Keep Children Safe Around Water*

<https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/stay-safe-active/communities/how-to-keep-children-safe>

Kidsafe. *Water Safety Resources.* <https://kidsafe.com.au/water-safety/>

Kidsafe ACT. *Near Drowning Brochure.*

http://www.kidsafeact.com.au/uploads/3/9/3/5/39355179/near_drowning_brochure.pdf

Kidsafe NSW. *Water Safety.* <https://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/>

Queensland Government. *Water safety Factsheet.*

<https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/kids/preventing-child-injury-death/water-safety>

Raising Children Network. *Safe fun with Water.*

http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/safe_fun_with_water.html

Swim Australia. *Swim Safer.* <https://www.swimaustralia.org.au/swim-safer>

Version Control and Change History

Version Number	Approval Date	Approved by	Amendment
1	July 2021 - Provisional	Director – waiting for feedback from Heritage Committee	Author: Julia Charters Separated Water Safety Policy from Supervision and Water Safety Policy for greater clarity Updated all resources. Added more detail to Legislative Background and expanded Definitions. Added Summary of Responsibilities to beginning of policy and added more details. Added more detail on Water Safety procedures. Added Attachment: Water Safety Factsheet for Families.



Attachment 1: Water Safety Factsheet for Families



“All child drownings are preventable. Young children are the most vulnerable and almost always drown during lapses in adult supervision. Sadly, just a few moments of inattention can have the most tragic consequences. These tips can help save a life.”

Principal Commissioner, Cheryl Vardon

SWIMMING POOLS

- ✓ Maintain your pool fencing and gates
- ✓ Teach your children and family to keep pool gates closed and check they are in working order
- ✓ Always be within arms reach of infants or young children when they are in or near water
- ✓ At parties with children, have a capable adult as ‘Designated Child Supervisor.’ Use a special hat that is passed on when another adult takes over
- ✓ Empty inflatable pools after every use
- ✓ Teach your child to swim
- ✓ Learn CPR – it saves lives!

Supervisors should be 15 or older, capable and not affected by alcohol.

BATH TIME

- ✓ Have a bath time routine. It’s a special time to be together
- ✓ Get everything you need ready first
- ✓ Be present or keep the bathroom door closed when you’re filling up the bath tub
- ✓ Use the least amount of water you need so that it is not too deep
- ✓ If you must leave the room, take your child/children with you

Never
 ✗ Prop pool gates open
 ✗ Leave furniture or toys near the pool fence – children love to climb!
 ✗ Leave a young child in the bath or shower unattended to answer the door or prepare dinner
 ✗ Rely on other children to supervise
 ✗ Relax your pool rules – rules keep kids safe!

AROUND THE HOUSE

- ✓ Empty buckets, eskies and anything else that holds water or other liquids

MOVING HOUSE

- ✓ Be especially vigilant of swimming pools and water hazards in the first months in a new property, including neighbourhood pools

ACREAGE AND RURAL PROPERTIES

- ✓ Have a fenced play area and be very clear with your children about where it is safe to play
- ✓ Teach your children about ‘no go’ areas, explain the dangers and be consistent in never letting them play nearby
- ✓ Set up barriers to prevent access to unsafe areas, like dams or creeks

AT THE BEACH OR RIVER

- ✓ Always swim between the flags
- ✓ Be close or hold young children
- ✓ Keep your eyes on older children in the surf
- ✓ Use life jackets or personal flotation devices (PFDs) when children are on boats, kayaks or other watercraft

IF A YOUNG CHILD IS MISSING

- ✓ Always check the pool and nearby water hazards first. **Seconds count!**

A child drowns silently.
 There won’t be screams.
 There won’t be splashing.



For more tips and information, visit www.talkingfamilies.qld.gov.au/secondscount
 #SecondsCount #BeASuperhero